

Dakota Wheel of Fortune Cancellation

by Larry Rausch

This article details those towns using the Wheel of Fortune postmark that I have identified for the Dakota territory.

In the November 2005 U.S. Cancellation Club News issue, Arthur Beane announced a project to produce a monograph on the Wheel of Fortune cancels. I've taken up the task to complete this monograph.

Here is where you can help... by providing any additional covers that I have not identified and forward photo scans of these Covers to me at stonywoods840@gmail.com. All state towns and duplicates would also be appreciated.

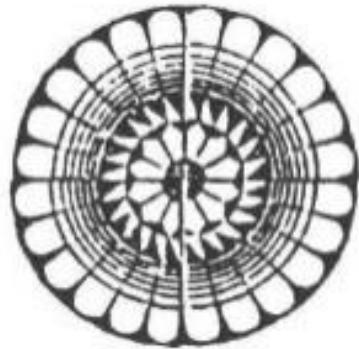


Fig. 1

In 1880 the F.P. Hammond Co. of Aurora, Illinois, introduced the canceller (Fig. 1). Today this fancy rubber canceller is called **Wheel of Fortune (WOF)**. The highly detailed stamper was made possible with the invention of vulcanized rubber. The Peerless Vulcanizer shown on the 1898 cover below (Fig. 2) may have been the type of machine to make the Wheel of Fortune device.

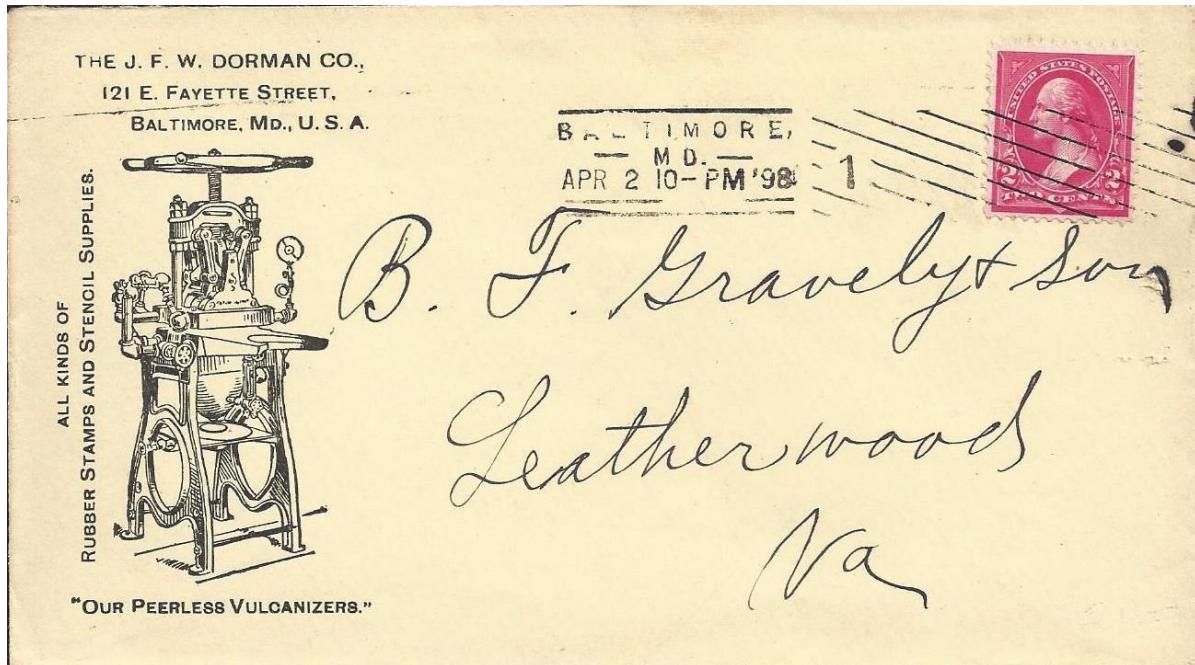


Fig. 2

"WHEEL OF FORTUNE"

No. 529.

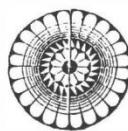
POST OFFICE SUPPLIES

ESTABLISHED 1872.

WE ARE HEADQUARTERS

For the most complete line of articles
used by P. M.'s and their Clerks.

Engraved Letter Headings,
" Note Headings,
Stamp Ribbons (all colors),
Money Order Daters,
Post-Office Daters,
Registered Letter Daters,
Received Daters,
Patent Inking Pads,
P. O. Canceling Ink (*by Express*),
P. O. Rubber Canceling Corks,
Twine Cutters,
Steel and Rubber Stamp Racks,
Coin Detectors,
Paper Weights,
Letter and Package Scales,
Check Protectors,
Gem Type Case,



No. 530.



No. 531.



No. 532.



The first advertisement for the WOF appeared in the January 1881 U.S. Official Postal Guide (Fig. 3). Although this ad depicts postmarks dating in the 1870's, the earliest WOF postmark found to date is February 26, 1880 from New Lisbon, Wisconsin. Dakota Territory earliest is dated October 6, 1880 from Eden (Fig. 4).

(Note: In the advertisement under "Best Offer", this Canceller and kit cost \$3.00.)

THE BEST OFFER YET.

One RUBBER P. O. Dater and Canceller, Ink Powder, and Pads, Dates for ten years in Walnut case with tweezers, and all the single line stamps needed in a Post Office, this style type: **UNCLAIMED**
By mail, postage paid, on receipt of price, \$3.00.

PROOFS FROM POSTMASTERS.

Your Quarterly Record received, and I like it very much.
John CECIL, P. M., California, Md.

The \$5 Outfit ordered by me was duly received this evening. They are all A No. 1 articles, and give entire satisfaction.—JAS. S. HARING, P. M., Orangegburg, N. Y.

The Rubber Stamps, Note and Bill Heads, came to hand all right and meet with favor with those who have examined them, for cheapness, neatness, and durability.—T. W. LITTLE, P. M., Picture Rocks, Pa.

I have been using one of your Stamps and Pads for the last year and it gives satisfaction.—W. S. BOWEN, P. M., Sheffield, Iowa.

I received my Note and Letter Heads, Dater, etc., all O. K. Am satisfied with your job. It far exceeds my expectations.

Wm. J. KING, P. M., Maxville, Mo.

The Dater received, and I am well pleased with it.—CHAS. COON, P. M., Albion, Idaho.

Your Box Record received, and is all O. K.—J. W. FROW, P. M., Fort Madison, Iowa.

The Pads ordered came to-day. I am very much pleased with them.—ED. S. MENARD, P. M., St. Genevieve, Mo.

Illustrated Catalogue of Post Office Supplies sent free to Postmasters only. For samples of Note and Letter Headings send 6 cts. Address F. P. HAMMOND & CO., Aurora Illinois.



Fig. 3

Fig. 4

I show the seven different cancellations found on WOF covers (Fig. 5)--six duplex and one with only the WOF die, coupled with many different circular date stamps as shown in the cover (Fig. 6).

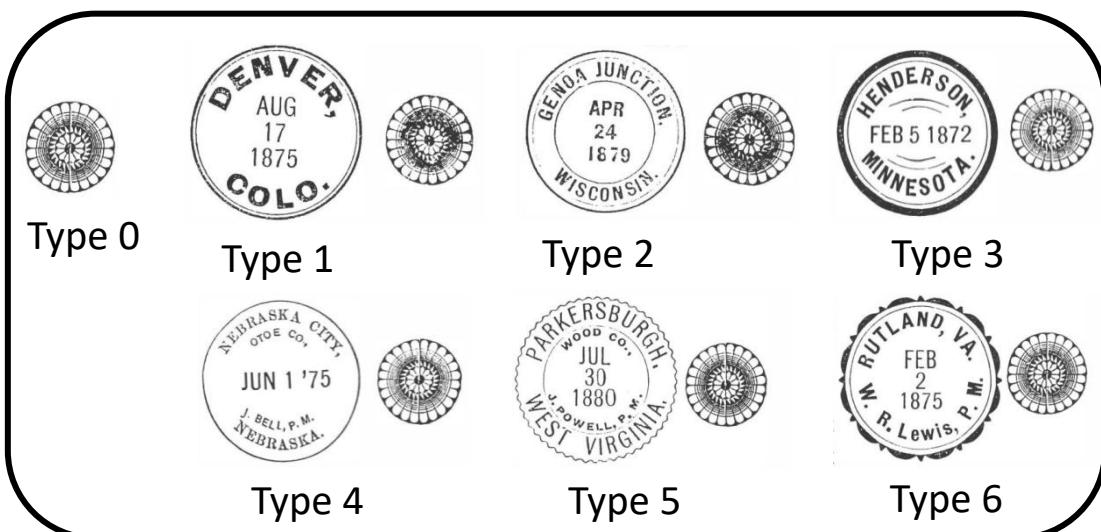


Fig. 5



Fig. 6

The 1995 book “Cancellations and Killers of the Banknote Era 1870-1894” by James M. Cole listed a total of 353 US towns using the WOF cancel; for Dakota he listed 14 towns. Also the Kelleher Auction of the 2011 Arthur Beane sale had 22 Dakota WOF covers listed. To date, 36 different Dakota towns have been identified (Fig. 7). Some of these Wheel of Fortune Postmark covers follow this article.

Reference:

Cancellations and Killers of the Banknote Era 1870-1894 James M Cole
US Cancellation Club News
Kelleher Auctions sale #623 January 14, 2011 Arthur Beane

count		Town	Photo	Usage	Range	type	Postmark Includes		Cover Date
							County	↓	
1	ND	Ardoch **	p			2	Walsh County		xx
2	ND	Bay Centre *	p	1888			Pembina County		88-12-9
3	ND	Creel City * **	p	1884		2	Ramsey County	Co	84-1-10
	ND	Creel City	p	1884		2	Ramsey County	Co	84-3-7
	ND	Dwight	p	1888		3	Richland County		88-3-27
4	ND	Dwight	p	1888		3	Richland County		88-6-5
	ND	Dwight	p	1888		3	Richland County		88-7-20
5	ND	Elgin **	p	1887		0	Grant County		87-8-10
	ND	Elgin	p	1887		0	Grant County		87-9-5
6	ND	Emma **					Dickey County		
	ND	Kongsburg	p	1896		3	McHenry County		88-4-7
7	ND	Kongsburg	p	1896		3	McHenry County		96-1-2
8	ND	Lakota * **	p	1890		1	Nelson County		90-5-5
9	ND	Laramore **	p	xx		1	Grand Forks County		xx-12-24
10	ND	Larrabee **	p	1885		1	Foster County		85-7-7
11	ND	Ludden **	p	1887		3	Dickey County		87-9-22
12	ND	Niagara * **					Grand Forks County		
13	ND	Oriska **	p	1882		1	Barnes County		82-10-26
14	ND	Pingree * **	p	1885		1	Stutsman County		85-11-10
		South Dakota		SD					
15	SD	Arlington *		1886			Brookings and Kingsbury co.		86-5-19
16	SD	Artesian City **	p	1887-8		0	Sanborn County		87-8-8
17	SD	Bristol	p	1883		1	Day County		83-3-7
18	SD	Buffalo Gap **	p	1887		1	Custer County		87-10-11
19	SD	Canty	p	1885		2	Aurora County		85-6-21
20	SD	Carthage *	p	1888		3	Miner County		88-6-28
21	SD	Corona	p	1889		3	Roberts County		89-10-9
22	SD	Dell Rapids * **	p	1883-4		1	Minnehaha County		84-1-18
	SD	Dell Rapids	p	1883-4		1	Minnehaha County		84-6-11
23	SD	Eden *	p	1880-2		2	Lincoln County	Co	80-10-6
	SD	Eden	p	1880-2		2	Lincoln County	Co	82-5-29
24	SD	Egan	p	1888		1	Moody Co	Co	83-7-9
25	SD	Estelline **	p	1884		0	Hamlin County		84-6-2
26	SD	Harrison	p	1886		2	Douglas County		86-2-6
27	SD	King	p	1882		2	Hand County	Co	82-6-7
28	SD	Letcher **	p	1883		1	Sanborn County		83-1-3
	SD	Letcher	p	1883		1	Sanborn County		83-7-25
29	SD	Mellette * **	p	1883		2	Spink County		83-6-14
30	SD	Miller * **	p	1882-3		1	Hand County	Co	82-5-29
31	SD	Prior * **	p	1884-5		1	Roberts County		85-4-16
32	SD	Redfield	p	1883		1	Spink County		83-5-3
	SD	Redfield	p	1883		1	Spink County		xx
33	SD	Scotland * **	p	1889		2	Bon Homme County		89-6-14
34	SD	Tulare	p	1884		3	Spink County		84-12-4
35	SD	Waterbury * **	p	1883-4		2	Jerauld County		83-6-19
	SD	Waterbury	p	1883-4		2	Jerauld County		83-7-20
	SD	Waterbury	p	1883-4		2	Jerauld County		84-3-8
36	SD	Wheeler **	p	1885-7		0	Charles Mix County		87-7-29

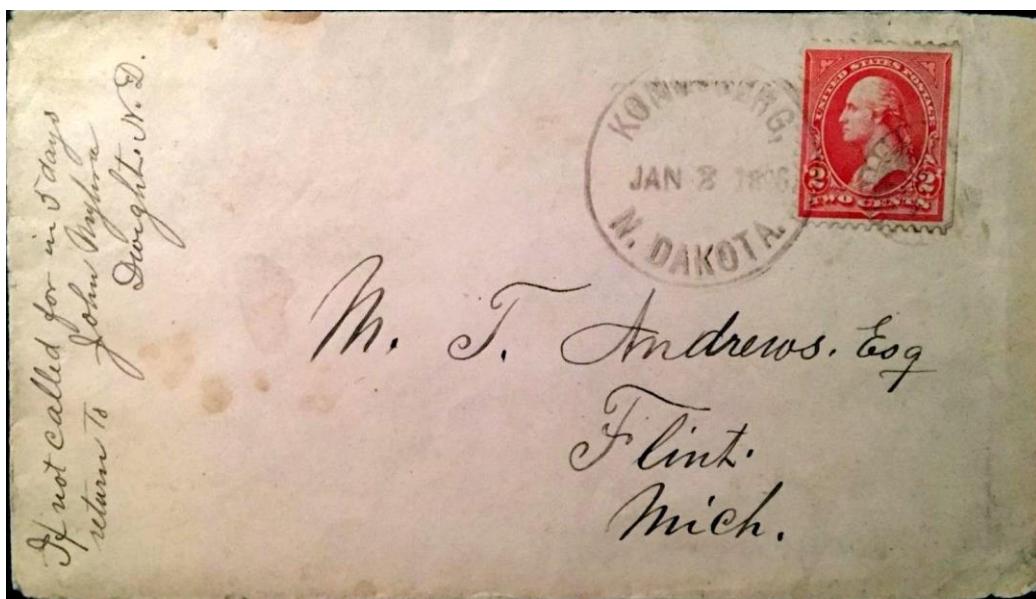
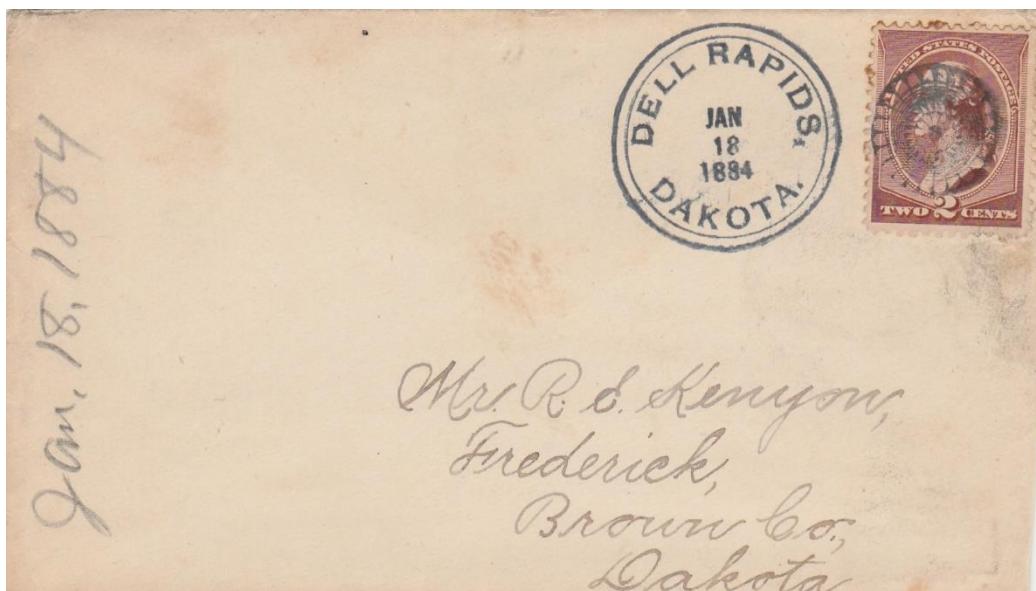
* Cole list ** 2011 Beane sale

Fig. 7

Return to C. M. JOHNSON,
DWIGHT, Richland Co., Dakota,
If not delivered within 10 days.



Cleveland Co Operative Store Co
Cleveland
Ohio



Only listing
after statehood
Kongsburg ND
Jan 2, 1896.